SAFETY

ALERT

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND, PACIFIC REGION
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, HAWAII
851 WRIGHT AVENUE, WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII 96857-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

IMPC-HI-OPD-S

12 January 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Moped Use by Untrained Riders

1. A group of newly arrived Soldiers was seen riding past Schofield Barracks toward Waikiki on rented mopeds, wearing t-shirts, shorts and slippers. The Soldiers said they were unaware of the requirement to be trained prior to riding any 2-wheel motor vehicle, or of the need for proper PPE. Nearly every weekend military personnel ride rented mopeds in what they perceive to be a low-risk group activity; they don't realize the danger.

2. Hawaii laws allow anyone with a motor vehicle license of any class to rent a moped. No insurance is required, and a simple $5 one-time sticker adorns the license plate area. Because of this, mopeds are looked at as being less dangerous than motorcycles. Mopeds actually are involved in nearly 40 percent of Hawaii motorcycle/scooter/moped fatal accidents, and are one of the leading causes of emergency room visits. Mopeds easily reach speeds that can cause traumatic injuries, and when operated without the right skills or regard to traffic laws, can lead the rider into tragic consequences.

3. Army Soldiers must have the motorcycle Basic Rider Course PRIOR to operating any 2-wheel road vehicle: whether motorcycle, scooter or moped. Soldiers must also wear full Proper Protective Equipment (PPE), to include DOT approved helmet, long-sleeved high visibility (day) or reflective (night) upper garment, sturdy long trousers, full-fingered gloves, and sturdy over-the-ankle boots or shoes whenever they ride, on duty or off. Because of these requirements, a casual weekend moped rental may make you subject to disciplinary action, and should an injury occur, a line-of-duty determination.

4. Soldiers: Treat mopeds with the same care as operating any motor vehicle, and abide by Army regulations by being trained and wearing full PPE. Leaders: ensure your Soldiers train BEFORE they ride.

5. For additional information contact the Directorate of Installation Safety, US Army Garrison, Hawaii, at (808) 655-6746, or your unit Safety representative.

SAMMY C. HOUSEBERG
Director, Installation Safety

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLENTIN BOARDS!

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